

International Patent Application No.  
PCT/GB2003/003167

National Stage  
Preliminary Amendment

**REMARKS**

This application is being filed concurrently with entry of the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/GB2003/003167 which claims the priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0217494.4 under 35 USC 119.

This Preliminary Amendment was considered when calculating the filing fee. Accordingly, the total number of claims specified on the Transmittal Letter is 39 and the number of independent claims is 3.

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira Lee Zebrak  
Registration No. 31,147  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Date: May 16, 2005

The BOC Group, Inc.  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
Phone: 908-771-6469  
Fax: 908-771-6159